

ELG 2013-2014 Interim Final Report Outline

"In the heat of the tightly structured, 90-day session, legislators often identify issues they want to study in more depth. The interim offers you a more measured opportunity to research, meet with subject-matter experts, and listen to the public's perspectives on critical and complex issues. It allows you to define problems, explore alternatives, seek solutions, and propose and test ideas."

The Education and Local Government Interim Committee Final Report is intended to provide a summary record of the committee's activities over the past 16 months. With current technology and the branch's commitment to transparency, an individual can in essence relive the entire interim, accessing full audio recordings of every meeting and all meeting materials, including handouts and written testimony via the meeting minutes. The report will strive to be a useful summary document that highlights access to these resources.

A. General statutory duties

1. Agency oversight
 - a. Established rotation of OPI, BPE, OCHE reporting and discussions with committee (ongoing)
 - b. Authorized drafting of 5 bill drafts for OPI (June 2014)
2. Administrative Rule Review
 - a. Established standing agenda item for updates from ELG staff attorney (ongoing)

B. Education topics

1. Shared Policy Goals for Education (SPGs)
 - a. Received background report on SPGs (Sept 2013)
 - b. Established subcommittee on SPGs (Dec 2013)
 - c. Progress updates (Feb, April, June 2014)
 - d. Accepted subcommittee report and approved SPGs for K-20 and MUS (Sept 2014)
2. Montana Indian Languages Preservation Pilot Program
 - a. Updated on program implementation (Dec 2013)
 - b. Updated on program completion (Sept 2014)
3. Charter schools
 - a. Reviewed proposed legislation from 2013 session (Dec 2013)
4. School Transportation
 - a. Received a summary of Legislative Audit report (Dec 2013)
 - b. Considered alternatives for addressing reimbursement schedule issue (April 2014)
5. K-12 Data Task Force
 - a. Updated on task force formation (Dec 2013)
 - b. Updated on task force meeting (June 2014)
6. Process for adoption/amendment of accreditation standards
 - a. Received staff report on adoption of Montana Common Core Standards (Sept 2013)
 - b. Discussed issues in 20-7-101, MCA, presented in staff report (Feb 2014)
 - c. Considered alternatives for addressing issues in 20-7-101, MCA (April 2014)
7. School funding study 20-9-309, MCA
 - a. Considered alternatives and directed staff to draft bill (April 2014)
 - b. Discussed bill draft and provided instructions to staff (June 2014)
 - c. Determined to/not to recommend legislation to 64th Legislature (Sept 2014)
8. Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
 - a. Updated on commission meetings and progress (June 2014)

9. Digital Learning
 - a. Heard presentation and discussed digital learning with representatives from OPI and Montana Digital Academy (June 2014)
 - b. Hosted follow-up discussion with K-12 and higher ed representatives (Sept 2014)
10. Early Childhood Education
 - a. Updated by the Governor's Office on Montana's Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant application (Dec 2013)
 - b. Presentation on brain development, policy considerations , and Montana programs (Feb 2014)
 - c. Updated on Governor's proposal for universal voluntary preschool (June 2014)
 - d. Further update from the Governor's Office (Sept 2014)
11. SB 175 Implementation and Effects
 - a. Reports and discussion with representatives of MTSBA caucuses (Feb 2014)
 - b. LFD report on inflationary increases and "concentric circles" (Feb 2014)

C. Local Government topics

1. Impacts of oil and gas development
 - a. Heard update from local government officials and representatives about impacts, needs, and mitigation efforts (June 2014)
 - b. Received overview of Governor's proposal for Eastern Montana Impact and Infrastructure Project
 - c. Updated by LFD staff on LFC discussions regarding local government infrastructure needs
2. Sand and gravel deposit program 82-2-701, MCA
 - a. Report from Bureau of Mines director (Feb 2014)
3. Incident Management
 - a. Heard presentation by local fire officials on need for funding mechanism for all-hazard incident management teams (June 2014)
 - b. Considered solutions to identified issue (Sept 2014)

D. Assigned study

1. HJR 2 Study of Electronic Records management
 - a. Received background and overview of issue from committee staff and representatives from SOS, SITSD, and the State Archives (Sept 2013)
 - b. Sanctioned work group of interested parties to meet and report back to committee (Sept 2013)
 - c. Received updates and final report from work group (Dec 2013, Feb 2014, April 2014)
 - d. Received updates on parallel efforts to improve ERM from state CIO (Dec 2013, April 2014, Sept 2014)
 - e. Appointed two committee members to work group (Feb 2014)
 - f. Accepted final report and recommendations from work group and directed staff to begin bill drafts for two recommendations (April 2014)
 - g. Reviewed bill drafts and provided direction for revision/follow-up (June 2014)
 - h. Determined to/not to recommend legislation to 64th Legislature (Sept 2014)

2 Questions for review:

1. Are there any topics that were brought before the committee that are not listed?
2. Would the committee like to add any additional recommendations for any of the above topics to its report?